

Howland Wood - Curatorial

American Cross of Honor
[Washington, D.C.]

1918-1920

December 3rd, 1918.

Thomas H. Hearndon, President,
The American Cross of Honor,
2904 - 13th Street, N. W.,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

This Society is most anxious to place in its collection of American Insignia the insignia of the American Cross of Honor, and I have been informed that permission to purchase this insignia should be obtained from you.

The Society has on view specimens of the insignia of nearly all of the important military and hereditary societies, the majority of which were received direct from the respective societies, either as gifts or by purchase. We are desirous of making this collection as nearly complete as possible, as its value from an historical point of view is very great.

This collection is kept constantly on exhibition, in the Society's building, which is open to the public, without charge, every day, and as the Society is an incorporated body, whose collections are permanent, it is in a position to guarantee that any insignia placed in its collection will remain there permanently and will not at any time get into the hands of private parties, who might make improper use of it. It is also, as far as I know, the only Museum which contains a collection of this character.

Under separate cover I am sending you a copy of a Historical Sketch of the Society, which will give you a little clearer idea of what it stands for.

Trusting that you will give this matter your favorable consideration, and hoping to have the pleasure of hearing from you at your convenience, I am, believe me,

Very respectfully,

Curator.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

OF THE

American
Cross of Honor

INCORPORATED BY ACT OF CONGRESS

MAY 1, 1908

A LIFE-SAVING ORDER
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA

Honorary President

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Board of Governors

THOMAS H. HERNDON, President

HARRY A. GEORGE, Secretary

RICHARD STOCKTON, Treasurer

JOHN SCHUYLER CROSBY

CYRUS E. MEAD

ANDREW M. TAYLOR

CAPTAIN LOUIS J. VAN SCHAICK

United States Army

Depository

THE SECOND NATIONAL BANK

WASHINGTON, D. C.

CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

The Government of the United States of America has honored the life-savers by conferring upon them the medal of honor, and by Act of Congress, approved May 1, 1906, incorporated this order as The American Cross of Honor, that the memory of the deeds of this army of peace might not be forgotten, but live on through the ages.

To assist in upbuilding this order that we believe will be known and honored throughout the earth, we, the members thereof, associate ourselves under this constitution and by-laws.

ARTICLE I

This order of the United States of America shall be known and designated as The American Cross of Honor.

ARTICLE II

The membership of this order shall consist of three classes—A, B, and C.

Class A.—All persons upon whom the United States Government has conferred the life-saving medal of honor, and who have upon their own application and acceptance by the board of governors had their names placed upon the roll of honor.

Class B.—The President of the United States, both as honorary member, and honorary president.

Class C.—Philanthropic persons who shall found or endow societies or orders to encourage and promote the saving of life.

(a) Representatives of foreign governments who shall have rendered valuable services to this order.

(b) Certain persons desiring to aid the cause of saving life may be elected by the board of governors as associate and honorary associate members.

ARTICLE III

Thomas H. Herndon, president of this order, having been unanimously elected by the votes of the members as president for life, said election was ratified and confirmed by the board of governors at its annual meeting in 1908.

ARTICLE IV

The officers of this order shall consist of a president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer, and a board of governors.

The board of governors shall consist of not less than three, nor more than seven members, and unless they resign, shall serve until their successors are elected.

The board of governors shall control all policies and decide upon every action to be taken by this order, and the said board shall elect by ballot classes B and C, and it shall be the duty of the president to notify all members of their election, whether as honorary members, or as members of the board of governors.

ARTICLE V

The duties of the president shall be to preside over all meetings of this order, to sign, officially, communications to all officers, members or other persons, concerning the

work or business of this order, and perform such other duties as may be necessary to transact the business pertaining thereto.

The vice-president shall serve in the absence of the president, assuming all rights and duties of said president.

The duties of secretary and treasurer shall be those that usually appertain to those officers.

ARTICLE VI

No fees or dues shall be assessed on any member of this order. Voluntary dues of \$1 a year may be paid by any member, and a life membership certificate may be issued to any member upon the voluntary payment of \$20.

ARTICLE VII

Officers of this order shall be selected from the members of the board of governors.

ARTICLE VIII

Alterations, additions or amendments to this constitution and by-laws shall be submitted to the board of governors to be voted upon, and it shall require a majority of the votes cast for the adoption of such amendments, or the election of any officer of this order.

A vacancy in the board of governors may be filled by the election of a member of this order, the president to nominate the member to be elected.

ARTICLE IX

The insignia or decoration of this order shall be a Maltese cross with the escutcheon of the United States of America in its proper colors in the center, and the letters

"A. C. H., and date 1906," on the points thereof, the whole encircled by a wreath of oak or laurel leaves, attached to an eagle displayed.

This decoration shall be suspended by a silken cord of blue, or by a ribbon of the same color when worn by men, or a white silken cord or white ribbon when worn by women, or it may be attached to a gold chain to be worn around the neck. If suspended by a ribbon it shall be attached to a pin or clasp, to be worn upon the left breast. All decorations of the cross shall be of gold and enamel, and if conferred on any member of class A, or in other cases where deemed desirable, the words "For Valor" shall be engraved thereon. This decoration may be conferred on any members of class A, B, or C.

To Incorporate The American Cross of Honor within the District of Columbia:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That H. A. George, of Charlottesville, Virginia; Richard Stockton, of Trenton, New Jersey; John J. Delaney, of New York City, New York; Andrew M. Taylor, of Rondout, New York; Eugene Longstreet, of Brielle, New Jersey, and Thomas H. Herndon, of Washington, District of Columbia, their associates and successors, are hereby created a body politic and corporate within the District of Columbia, by the name of The American Cross of Honor, for the purpose of bringing into closer relations of fraternal fellowship the said body, and to cause to be perpetuated the memory of the gallant and heroic deeds of those persons upon whom the United States Government has bestowed the life-saving medal of honor.

Congress reserves the right to amend, alter or repeal this act. Approved May 1, 1906.

Honorary Members

HONORABLE WOODROW WILSON

President of the United States of America

Honorary President

Ex-Presidents

HONORABLE WILLIAM McKINLEY*

HONORABLE THEODORE ROOSEVELT

HONORABLE WILLIAM H. TAFT

Their Majesties

EDWARD VII*

King of Great Britain

GEORGE V

King of Great Britain

~~WILLIAM II~~

~~Emperor of Germany~~

*Spierman from
The rolls -*

VICTOR EMMANUEL

King of Italy

LEOPOLD II*

King of the Belgians

HONORABLE ARMAND FALLIERES

Ex-President of France

MR. ANDREW CARNEGIE

Founder of the Hero Fund Commission

*He bravest is, whose steps have trod
Stern duty's path on land or sea;
He noblest is, who serves his God
By serving all humanity.*

*Deceased

()

GENERAL COUNSEL
FRED BEALL.

HONORARY PRESIDENT
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

DEPOSITARY
SECOND NATIONAL BANK

AMP
The American Cross of Honor
INCORPORATED BY
ACT OF CONGRESS
MAY 1, 1906

THOMAS H. HERNDON, PRESIDENT
RICHARD STOCKTON, VICE-PRESIDENT
CAPTAIN LOUIS J. VAN SCHAICK, U.S.A.

HARRY A. GEORGE, TREASURER
ANDREW M. TAYLOR, SECRETARY
CAPTAIN RICHARD STOCKTON, JR.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

December 5, 1918.

Hon. Howland Wood,
Curator, The American Numismatic Society,
Broadway, and 156th Street,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Wood:

In reply to your letter of December 3, 1918, I take pleasure in stating that I have presented your request to our board of governors, and as soon as I learn its decision, I shall advise you.

This Order was organized in the year 1898, and chartered by Congress in 1906; all the Presidents including Mr. McKinley, have accepted honorary membership and had the cross of honor conferred upon them.

Among other distinguished honorary members we numbered their late Majesties, King Edward of Great Britain, and Leopold II of Belgium. King George of Great Britain, the King of Italy, Ex-President Fallieres of France, and Field Marshal Joffre elected in 1917, and Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, to whom the cross has just been sent thru the Department of State to the British Government, who named Field Marshal Haig, as worthy to receive the insignia of the cross. Each year we hope to confer this insignia on some person who has aided the cause of humanity and freedom of mankind. Mr. Andrew Carnegie is also an honorary member.

I am, Sir,

Most respectfully, *Thos. H. Herndon*
President.

2904--13th St. N. W.

December 10th, 1918.

Mr. Thomas H. Herndon,
2904 - 13th Street, N. W.,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Herndon:-

I beg to acknowledge your favor of December 5th,
and trust that your Board of Governors will be able to
let our Museum have one of the Crosses of Honor for
exhibition purposes.

If ever you get to New York we would be very
pleased to have you come and visit our Museum and you
can see then the work we are doing.

Yours very truly,

Curator.

GENERAL COUNSEL
FRED BEALL.

HONORARY PRESIDENT
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

DEPOSITARY
SECOND NATIONAL BANK

The American Cross of Honor

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HARRY A. GEORGE, TREASURER
ANDREW M. TAYLOR, SECRETARY
CAPTAIN RICHARD STOCKTON, JR.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

December 11, 1918.

Hon. Howland Wood, Curator,
The American Numismatic Society,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Wood:

In reply to your letter of December 10, 1918, I take pleasure in stating that including the writer, three of our five members of our board will vote favorably to award the cross of honor of the first class to The American Numismatic Society. I have written to the other two members and have no doubt that the vote will be unanimous as to the proposed award.

I shall suggest to the board that your Society be elected an honorary member of this Order, and then the insignia can be conferred in the regular manner. We can not accept pay for this decoration, and if our board agrees to my suggestion, we shall confer it in the manner suggested, and probably we can get the Hon. John F. Hyland, Mayor of New York City, to make the presentation if that arrangement meets with your approval, and provided also, the Mayor consents to act in the manner proposed.

Our board awards this decoration annually to some great personage who has best served humanity in advancing the liberty of the people of the world.

In 1917, the cross was awarded to Field Marshal Joffre, of France, and the present year, 1918, it was conferred, or will be, on Field Marshal, Sir Douglas Haig of Great Britain, and the Department of State has just forwarded the decoration to the American Embassy at London, for presentation to the British Government.

I hope that as long as my life lasts that this plan will be carried into effect, and then probably some patriot who claims the whole world as his country, will make a small endowment to cover the nominal cost of this decoration, and thus link his name with immortality.

The Governors of twelve States of the Union have consented to become members of a Special Board to nominate annually, the person who shall receive the cross, provided Congress will so amend our charter to enable them to act in that capacity. If the act is passed, I have no doubt we can get a majority of the governors to become members of

the said board.

For your information, I shall send you under another cover, a copy of our constitution and by-laws, as I feel that you are entitled to know our aims and purposes as set forth in the printed data and in this letter.

I thank you for your kind invitation to visit your Museum, should I visit New York, and if I do, I shall be pleased to avail myself of that privilege.

As soon as I hear definitely from the other members of our board, I shall write to you and let you know the decision.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

Thos. H. Herndon,
President.

2904--13th Street N. W.

December 18th, 1918.

Mr. Thomas H. Herndon, President,
American Cross of Honor,
2904 - 13th Street, N. W.,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Herndon:-

I have delayed answering your letter of December 11th as I wished to show it to several of our Officers. Although we deeply appreciate the honor that you pay us by conferring the American Cross of Honor upon this Society, we feel that we are really not deserving of any honor, and do not want to appear to outsiders in any false sense. We feel a certain hesitancy in bringing up this matter but would like to make the following suggestion - could not the medal be deposited with this Society for the purpose of exhibition and record. That would not involve any ceremonies.

I beg to thank you for the interest and consideration you have shown in this Society, and am looking forward to seeing the medal.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

Curator.

The American Cross of Honor

INCORPORATED BY
ACT OF CONGRESS
MAY 1 1906

THOMAS H. HERNDON, PRESIDENT
RICHARD STOCKTON, VICE-PRESIDENT
CAPTAIN LOUIS J. VAN SCHAIK, U.S.A.

HARRY A. GEORGE, TREASURER
ANDREW M. TAYLOR, SECRETARY
CAPTAIN RICHARD STOCKTON, JR.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

March 3, 1919.

The American Numismatic Society,
New York City.

Sirs:

The Cross of Honor of this Order is atlast ready, and if you wish, it will be forwarded to you, as requested in recent correspondence.

Regretting that it has required such a long time, to complete this insignia,

I am, Sirs,

Most respectfully,

Thos. H. Herndon,
President.

P.S.
*I presume you have regulations
in which to exhibit the in-
signia, so forward it in a shipping
case.*

Address
2904--13th St. N. W.

March 5th, 1919.

Mr. Thomas H. Herndon, President,
American Cross of Honor,
2904 - 13th Street, N. W.,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of March 3rd at hand and we would be very glad to receive the American Cross of Honor at your convenience. We presume that the piece will be deposited with us as mentioned in our last letter. We would like to know concerning this point on account of our book records.

We have special cases to show insignia in. They are shown upright, mounted on black cards with the necessary designation under them, therefore it is unnecessary to put it in a special box or fix it up in any way.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

Curator.

GENERAL COUNSEL
FRED BEALL.

HONORARY PRESIDENT
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

DEPOSITARY
SECOND NATIONAL BANK

The American Cross of Honor

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MAY 1, 1906

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HARRY A. GEORGE, TREASURER
ANDREW M. TAYLOR, SECRETARY
CAPTAIN RICHARD STOCKTON, JR.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

March 6, 1919.

The American Numismatic Society,
Broadway, at 156th Street,
New York City.

Sirs:

With reference to recent correspondence relative to depositing the insignia of the Cross of Honor of this Order with your Society, for the purpose stated in your recent letter, I take pleasure in stating that the cross has been this day forwarded by parcel-post, and I hope it will reach you safely.

I had to send a case in order that the cross might be protected from injury, and if you will kindly return the leather case, it will be appreciated, as the manufacturers may desire it.

I am, Sirs,

Your obedient servant,

Thos. H. Herndon,

President.

Address

2904--13th St. N. W.
Washington, D. C.

March 13th, 1919.

Mr. Thomas H. Ferndon, President,
American Cross of Honor,
294 - 13th Street, N. W.,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of March 6th together with the insignia of the Cross of Honor of your order at hand, and I have entered this in our books as deposited by your organization. An official acknowledgment will be sent you shortly. Under separate cover I am returning to you the leather case as per your request.

Thinking you very much for your courtesy in placing one of these insignia in our Society, I am,

Yours very truly,

Curator.

Th. H. Burden.

Will you lend us
insignia of the Am. Cross
of Honor. Have ordered
one each. But need at
once will return
a new one in a short
time. If you send at least
of people, know what.

HOTELS
UNDER THE COMPANY'S MANAGEMENT.



BLETCHLEY,
STATION HOTEL,
TELEGRAMS, BESTOTEL, BLETCHLEY.

CREWE,
CREWE ARMS HOTEL,
TELEGRAMS, BESTOTEL, CREWE,
TELEPHONE, CREWE, 21.

PRESTON,
PARK HOTEL.
TELEGRAMS, BESTOTEL, PRESTON.
TELEPHONE, PRESTON 188.

LONDON,
EUSTON HOTEL,
TELEGRAMS,
BESTOTEL, EUSQUARE, LONDON.
TELEPHONE, MUSEUM 3000.

BIRMINGHAM,
QUEENS HOTEL,
TELEGRAMS,
BESTOTEL, BIRMINGHAM.
TELEPHONE, MIDLAND 2740.

HOLYHEAD,
STATION HOTEL,
TELEGRAMS, BESTOTEL, HOLYHEAD.
TELEPHONE, HOLYHEAD, P.O. 24.

GREENORE,
GREENORE HOTEL,
TELEGRAMS, BESTOTEL, GREENORE.

DUBLIN.
NORTH WESTERN HOTEL.
TELEGRAMS, NORTHWESTERN HOTEL, DUBLIN.
TELEPHONE, DUBLIN 1291.

LIVERPOOL,
NORTH WESTERN HOTEL.
TELEGRAMS,
BESTOTEL, LIVERPOOL.
TELEPHONE, ROYAL 2960.

NORTH WESTERN HOTEL,

LIVERPOOL,

19

Ans.

*Am sending Am Cross of Honor
and spec. del.*

October 28th, 1919.

Thomas H. Verndon, Esq., President,
The American Cross of Honor,
2904 - 15th Street, N. W.,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

Your telegram requesting the American Cross of Honor received this morning, which I answered at once by telegram that I would send it on. This morning I sent the American Cross of Honor to you by registered mail, special delivery. You should get this first thing Wednesday morning if not earlier. We are very glad that we are able to render you any assistance, and trust when the other cross is ready to have it once again in our exhibition.

Very truly yours,

Wm. H. H. H.

RECEIPT FOR REGISTERED ARTICLE

Registered at the Post Office Indicated in Postmark

Complete record of registered mail is kept at the post office, but the sender should write the name of the addressee on back hereof as an identification. Preserve and submit this receipt in case of inquiry.

POSTMASTER,

Form 3806.

Per _____

No. 452266

Class postage _____

OCT 28 1919
Postmark clearly,
showing
date and office.

05—6852

Th. A. Herndon
Washington DC
Tom Cross Herndon

GENERAL COUNSEL
FRED BEALL

HONORARY PRESIDENT
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

DEPOSITARY
SECOND NATIONAL BANK

The American Cross of Honor

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MAY 1, 1906

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RICHARD STOCKTON, VICE-PRESIDENT
ST. J. B. GRAHAM, M. D.

HARRY A. GEORGE, TREASURER
ANDREW M. TAYLOR, SECRETARY

WASHINGTON, D.C.

November 8, 1919.

Dr. Howland Wood,
Curator, A. N. S.,
New York City.

My dear Doctor Wood:

In reply to your letter of recent date relative to sending us the insignia of the A. C. H., you are advised that the Cross arrived safely, and we return our thanks for complying so promptly to our request.

The insignia will be returned shortly, or a new Cross substituted and forwarded to you.

Very respectfully,

Thos. H. Herndon,

President.

2904--13th St. N. W.

January 27, 1920

Mr. Thomas H. Herndon
2904 Thirteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your package containing the American Cross of Honor. I beg to thank you again very much for returning this to us.

Very truly,

Curator.